

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship.*  
*Weeks beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> of Christmas (1 Jan 2012) – The new King who is a Light to the Nations*  
**Group notes** – Readings: Galatians 4:4 – 7 ; Luke 2:21 – 40

<b>Welcome</b>	Explore what excited you most about Christmas 2011.
<b>Worship ideas</b>	Choose Christmas Carols like O come all ye faithful and In the bleak mid winter <i>20 files containing about 30 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
<b>Word (refs.↓)</b>	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to look at just one or two of the passages below:</i>
Galatians 4:4 – 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Is slavish, ritualistic obedience to the law a good thing or a bad thing? Explore what it means to be born under law.</li> <li>● We have been redeemed through Christ's death and resurrection from bondage to the law. How do we avoid becoming ensnared all over again?</li> <li>● What does it mean to you to be God's heir(ess) through Jesus Christ?</li> </ul>
Luke 2: 19 – 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Remind yourselves of what she was treasuring in her heart? As a Jew born under the law how might Mary have seen herself as an heiress?</li> </ul>
Luke 2: 21 – 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How do you think Mary and Joseph, with all that they had experienced, reacted to Simeon's blessing and Anna's thanks?</li> <li>● How frequently do you allow yourself to be prompted into action by the Holy Spirit?</li> </ul>
<b>Witness</b>	<p><b><u>Pray and praise</u></b> <i>for one or two of the following</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Arab Spring and God's peace in those nations fragile democracies. Think of Syria and the Arab league's influence in that country</li> <li>❖ North Korea and the change in leadership there</li> <li>❖ The Euro crisis and their continuing economic crisis</li> <li>❖ The United Kingdom, its continuing economic crisis, rising unemployment, the Diamond Jubilee and The Olympics</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Plan</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ an opportunity as a group or as individuals to reach out in the weeks ahead to people who are not yet Christians, e.g. Pancake Party (Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Feb) Holiday Club (20 – 24 Feb) as well as The Diamond Jubilee and The Olympics.</li> </ul>